

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 21, 2010

Restaurant owners have contacted my office concerned that food trucks and food cart vendors are unfairly competing with them. Some of these vendors park in front of restaurants and draw customers away from them. Since these mobile food operators often don't pay for parking, rental space, property tax, and hire far fewer employees, their overhead costs are much lower than what brick and mortar restaurants can do and can offer cheaper prices.

Especially in this economy, we need to promote a business environment where both entities can work together, serve the public safely and conveniently, and thrive. In the past and recently, the Board has taken steps to serve the public interests of safety and convenience by both mobile and fixed food establishments, but tensions still remain. Bringing the parties together in a constructive atmosphere is a means to see what more can be done to make the situation better for all concerned. It's worth a try.

- M O R E -

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Convene a taskforce that includes representation from the Southern California Mobile Food Vending Truck Association, the Restaurant Association, the Department of Public Health, the Small Business Commission and other interested parties; and
2. Report back in 90 days with recommendations that this Board could consider that would facilitate the co-existence of both types of retail food enterprises in ways that also serve the public interest.

RE:eg